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(71) Applicant: **MITSUBISHI DENKI KABUSHIKI KAISHA**
Tokyo 100-8310 (JP)

(72) Inventors:

- **Pfister, Hanspeter**
Somerville, Massachusetts 02143 (US)
- **van Baar, Jeron**
1788 VR. Den Helder (NL)
- **Oosterbaan, Collin E.**
2461 SK Langeraar (NL)

(74) Representative: **Pfenning, Meinig & Partner**
Mozartstrasse 17
80336 München (DE)

(54) Method for interactively modeling graphical objects

(57) A method generates a representation of a graphic object in a memory. A surface of the object is partitioned into a plurality of cells having a grid resolution related to an image plane resolution. A single zero-dimensional surface element is stored in the memory for each cell located on the surface of the object. A subset of the surface elements are selected as primary surface elements. The unselected surface elements are identified as secondary surface elements. Adjacent primary

surface elements are connected by links. Primary attributes of the portion of the object contained in a particular cell are assigned to the associated primary surface element and the links of the associated primary surface element. The unselected surface elements are partitioned into groups, there being one group for each primary surface element, and secondary attributes of the portion of the object contained in a particular cell are assigned to the associated secondary surface elements.

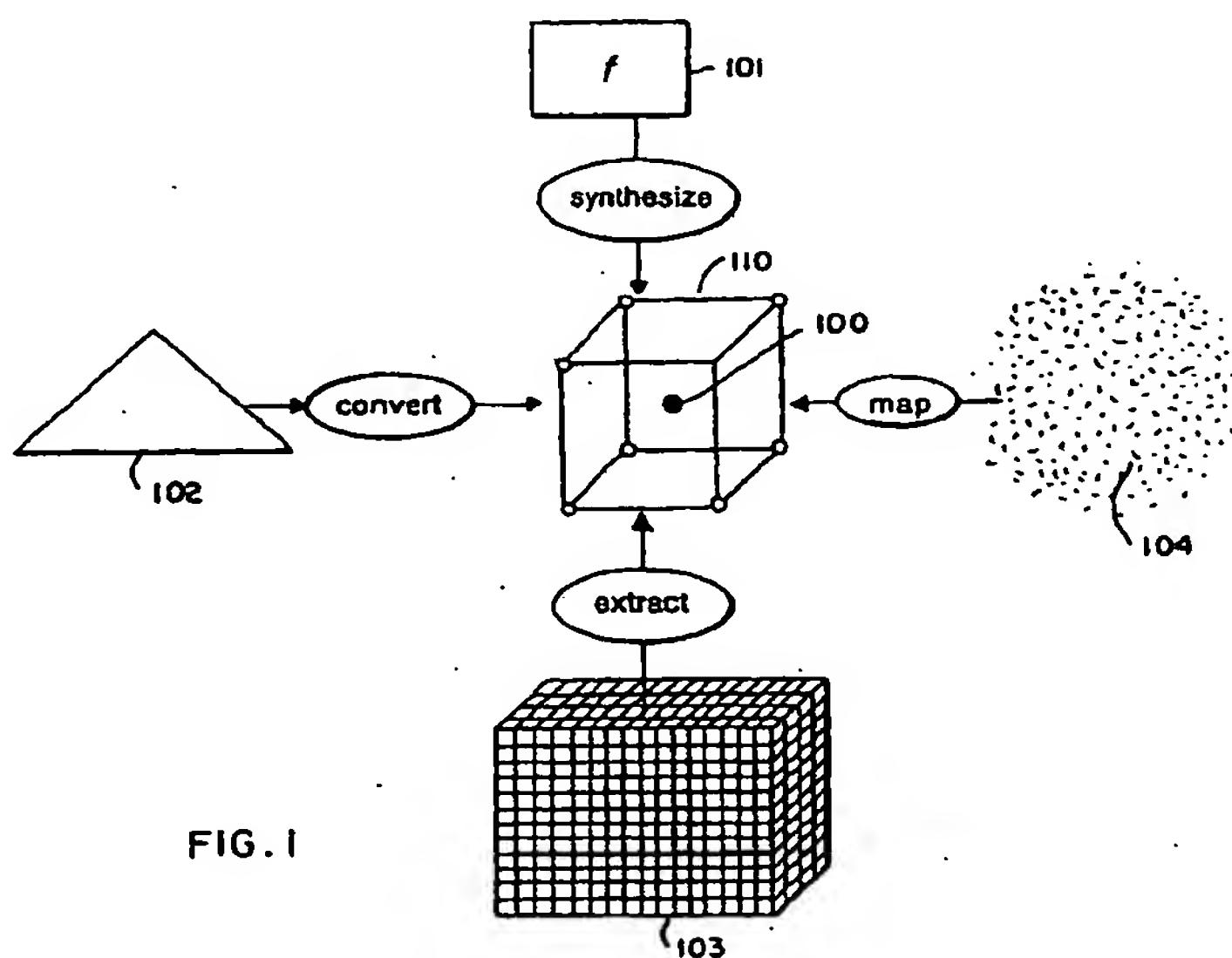


FIG. I



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
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A	<p>GIBSON S ET AL: "3D CHAINMAIL: A FAST ALGORITHM FOR DEFORMING VOLUMETRIC OBJECTS" PROCEEDINGS OF THE 1997 SYMPOSIUM ON INTERACTIVE 3D GRAPHICS. PROVIDENCE, APR. 27 - 30, 1997, PROCEEDINGS OF THE SYMPOSIUM ON INTERACTIVE 3D GRAPHICS, NEW YORK, ACM, US, 27 April 1997 (1997-04-27), pages 149-154, XP000725366 ISBN: 0-89791-884-3 * abstract * * chapters "Data Structures" and "Object Deformation: 3D ChainMail" * * figures 1-3 * ---</p>	1-14	<p>TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)</p> <p>G06T</p>
A	<p>US 5 187 660 A (DZIK STEVEN C ET AL) 16 February 1993 (1993-02-16) * column 1, line 35 - line 57 * * figure 8 * ---</p>	1-14 -/-
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
MUNICH	28 April 2003	Engels, A	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		<p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>	
<p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p>			



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<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Place of search</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Date of completion of the search</td> <td style="width: 34%;">Examiner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUNICH</td> <td>28 April 2003</td> <td>Engels, A</td> </tr> </table> <p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>				Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	MUNICH	28 April 2003	Engels, A
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MUNICH	28 April 2003	Engels, A							

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 00 11 5915

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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